

Howard County's Local Children's Board
Strategic Planning
Notes 2/28/17

Attendees

√	Rosemary Beakes, Community (excused)	√	Bitia Dayhoff, CAC	√	Maura Rossman, HD
	Kelly Cimino, DHCD (excused)	√	Dawn Duignan, Community	√	Louis Valenti, MSDE
√	Karen Butler, DSS	√	Restia Whitaker, HCPSS		Gary Gardner, HCPD (excused)
	Dario Broccolino, (excused)		Tim Madden, DJS (excused)		Edisa Padder, Community (excused)
√	John Byrd, DRP	√	Stevie Bullock, DCRS	√	Charmayne Anderson, Community
√	Naveed Mian, Student Member	√	Madeline Morey, HCMHA		Erica Byrne, Voices for Children

Staff: Sucora Best, Kim Eisenreich, recorder

Public Attendees: Kim Malat, GOC; Kori Jones, OCF; Jim Marshall, HCPD; Charles Smith, DCRS; Carl Delorenzo, County Admin; Jackie Scott, DCRS; Megan Godfrey Jackson, DCRS; Kim Oldham, State's Attorney Office; Brian Perry, DHCD; Officer Jim Marshall, HCPD, Rea Goldfinger, A-OK Mentoring

Our Charge

"All children and youth in Howard County are safe, healthy, and have many opportunities to succeed – with adults who provide them a stable and nurturing community."

- Equity – *all* youth have access to this
- Adults are empowered
- Health includes:
 - Mental health
 - Food security
- "Opportunities" includes *second* opportunities

Discussion and Decisions

Thanks for the tremendous discussion – this work is challenging but invaluable, and we are beginning to make some preliminary decisions that will be important to our work together over the next several years:

Geography matters to youth and family well-being in Howard County

Needs are in the county's leafy west and denser, more commercial east and southeast are of different types and severities. By focusing resources on the zip codes with disproportionate needs for support, the LCB can get a bigger bang for its buck.

"No decisions about you without you."

- *Latino participation in LCB.* County data clearly points to stressors and special challenges faced by our Hispanic families. We'll reach out to Conexiones and/or FIRN before the next meeting.
- *Youth engagement.* This work bears directly on youth and, in addition to Naveed's involvement on the LCB, we are planning to work with Voices for Change late spring

early summer to strengthen youth engagement in the LCB. We'll be sure to include the Board as this work evolves.

Additional investments in food security may be merited – particularly for youth in summertime

Remarkable efforts have been made by the Community Action Council and the Howard County Public Schools, Health Department, and Department of Social Services over the past several years to close the gap between the number of food insecure county residents and the services available to them. After reviewing the data, LCB remains concerned in particular about the approximately 11,500 students that receive FARM during the school year but may lose access during the summer. We recommend further analysis and investment – both in summer programs (including through HCPS) that provide meals to low-income Howard County youths and to understand the remaining unmet need of food insecure families.

Next meeting:

- Will review special challenges faced by some Howard County students that make it difficult for schools to close the opportunity gap – homelessness, high mobility, chronic absence, trauma – and consider opportunities for better-supporting these students and HCPS.
- Updated data on mental health trends and services in Howard County